

E-LABorations

Montana DPHHS Environmental Laboratory Updates

May 2010

Inside this issue:

DWES Kits	P1
Benefits	P1
Links	P2
Events	P2
Quote	P2

DPHHS ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY

24/7 Contact Number
1-800-821-7284

OFFICE

Environmental 444-2642

SUPERVISOR

Russell Leu 444-5259

CHEMISTS

Gayle LaBlanc
Jill Cohenour
Wayne Svec
Casey Redder
Curtis Fjelstad
Philip Wisniewski

LABORATORY PREPAREDNESS

SUPERVISOR

Mary Simmons 444-9777

CHEMICAL TERRORISM

COORDINATOR

Joel Felix 444-4115

BIO-TERRORISM

COORDINATOR

Kathy Martinka 444-0944

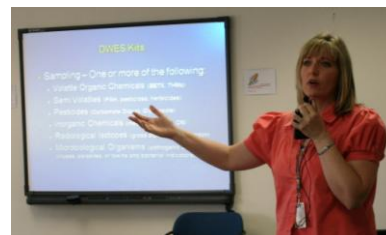
If you have events or stories to include in future issues please submit them by email to: Joel Felix
jfelix@mt.gov

Drinking Water Emergency Sampling (DWES) Kit

Preparedness and Team Building

The [Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) and the [Montana DPHHS Laboratory Services Bureau \(LSB\)](#) have developed a Drinking Water Emergency Sampling (DWES) Kit that can be used to confirm the presence of unknown contaminants that may have been introduced to a Drinking Water system.

These DWES kits contain the bottles and PPE necessary to collect samples from a drinking water facility during a suspected or credible threat event. During an **emergency** these samples will help determine **unknown** contaminants that may be in the water supply. The DWES kits will be located at all county health departments, public water supplies (PWS) over 3300 in population, DEQ Public Water Supply Offices, Hazmat Teams, National Guard Civil Support Team, as well as the DPHHS State Laboratory.



Presentations introducing the DWES kits were enthusiastically received during the recent [Montana Environmental Health Association \(MEHA\)](#) conference in Helena and the [Montana Section of the American Water Works Association \(MSAWWA\)](#) conference in Kalispell. After the presentations the DWES kits were distributed to the sanitarians and public water supplies that were in attendance. The remainder of the coolers will be distributed to the Hazmat Teams and the Civil Support Team during their meeting in June.

We are excited about the increased response capability these pre-positioned DWES kits provide and look forward to building stronger relationships with the first responder community.

BENEFITS of the DWES Kit



- Collection of a complete sample set is more likely to be achieved through the use of pre-designed kits
- Complete kit ready to go, no delay in obtaining bottles
- Expedited sampling and transport
- STANDARDIZED – All players on the same page
- Instructions and Chain of Custody Included with each DWES Kit
- Multiple disciplines will be trained about the kit
- Geographically distributed for rapid access
- Promotes communication/consultation with the Laboratory and DEQ during and invent

Continued on page 2

Link of Interest

EPA Establishes Website on BP Oil Spill

EPA has developed a website in response to the BP oil spill on the Gulf Coast. The website provides environmental data, like water and air quality samples, from EPA's ongoing monitoring of impacted coastlines. The data will help assess potential risks to the environment and to public health.

<http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/>

Events Calendar

EPA Water Laboratory Alliance Forum

June 05, 2010

The EPA Water Laboratory Alliance Forum will convene the day before the 2010 APHL Annual Meeting, June 5, from 1-5 pm in Cincinnati, OH, to discuss EPA's Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA) program. The WLA program provides the water sector with an integrated nationwide network of laboratories that can support surveillance, response, and remediation in response to water contamination events. There is no registration fee but registration is required. Contact hours (3.5hrs) are available for this session.

For More Information:

https://www.aplnet.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?webcode=EventInfo&RegPath=EventRegFees&REg_evt_key=927005d8-8d14-4739-8882-743d00f25a0e

ERLN Application Deadline

June 25, 2010

When : June 25th 2010 is the new **EXTENDED** application deadline.

The Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN) integrates capabilities of existing public sector laboratories with accredited private sector labs to support environmental responses.

To learn more about membership and possible reimbursement opportunities go to the following link:
<http://www.epa.gov/erln/join.html>

High quality water is more than the dream of the conservationists, more than a political slogan; high quality water, in the right quantity at the right place at the right time, is essential to health, recreation, and economic growth.